

Ad-hoc Agricultural Assessment Work Group

7500 Odawa Circle, Harbor Springs, MI 49740

Meeting Minutes January 22, 2013 NRD Conference Room

1. The meeting was called to order at 10am.
2. Alan Proctor, Doug Craven, John Keshick, Renee Dillard and Regina Brubaker-Carver Present. Kevin Gasco and Michele Keshick were absent. Guests: Ellie Payton, LTBB Planning
3. Agenda – no action taken
4. Minutes – Draft AAWG December 20, 2012 meeting minutes were not reviewed.
5. Reports on Past Action Items
 - a. GSA Program - Kevin Gasco has not looked into this to date.
 - b. Farm Operation Plan and Budget – AP and DC met January 16, 2013 in the NRD conference room to begin drafting plan. Draft budget in excel and .doc LTBB Farm Plan begun and presented to AAWG for discussion and placed on the LTBB public drive \\Lttb-srv-dc1\public\Ag_ad_hoc for additional review from group. JK provided a copy of the Seller Disclosure Statement which has additional information useful for the Farm Plan. JK and RG will try to gather more information regarding farm operation at January 31, 2013 FRTEP meeting.
 - c. Building Codes – JK and KG to organize discussions with LTBB Executive and Planning, no action taken to date.
 - d. Youth Group – RG and MK to contact Kristy Dayson to talk about above topics, no action taken to date.
 - e. Parcel 54 House tour by AAWG – JK coordinated tour of structure January 7, 2012. A copy of AP notes is completed and in the public folder Parcel 54 AAWG Notes.
 - f. MSU Apprenticeship Program – RG to investigate, no action taken to date.
6. Old Business
 - a. Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP) Updates – Relationship Building for Better Partnerships: Anishnaabe Tribes & MSUE sessions scheduled for January 8, February 5 and February 28, 2013 at LTBB Administration Building. JK, MK, AP, KG, RG and AP attended January 8, 2013 session. Next FRTEP meeting scheduled for January 31, 2013 in Manistique, MI at the Tribal Center from 11:30am – 2:30pm. JK, RG, DC and AP from AAWG have agreed to attend, need clarification from grant availability from the Relationship Building for Better Partnerships: Anishnaabe Tribes & MSUE sessions, and JK reports that Barb Smutek wishes to attend next scheduled AAWG meeting.

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- b. Role of AAWG & Strategic Planning – After tour of Parcel 54 structure, a memo to Land and Reservation should be created from AAWG outlining group's pros and cons for the property. JK requests that AP and DC put memo together outlining groups initiatives for presentation at the February 3, 2013 LTBB Tribal Council meeting.
7. New Business
- a. Youth 4H Involvement – verbal report from DC, has approached LTBB Tribal Administrator Al Colby regarding possible location for livestock pens, possibly Drier Road property. His intent is to raise swine for sale at auction, and to ultimately provide a vehicle for youth involvement into the 4H program (targeting tribal youth). There are no 4H programs north of Petoskey.
 - b. Parcel 54 House - RD asked what AAWG plans were for house on Parcel 54 if property is purchased by Tribal Council, current thought is to incorporate as part of compensation for farmer.
 - c. Organic Farming - RD and RG support this as a goal for AAWG, DC spoke about local food hubs an agricultural operation by LTBB could potentially become part of.
 - d. LTBB NRD Greenhouse – RG to send out email to ascertain level of interest among other LTBB departments and staff. DC spoke about potential usage for 2013 spring growing season. AP to determine square feet of space within greenhouse and configure potential alignment of raised beds in AutoCAD. RG suggests that cedar boards desirable. DC suggests having greenhouse ready by end of March/April 2013.
 - e. LTBB Farm Plan Farmer Compensation Strategies – Parcel 54 house is essentially rent-free, no land taxes. LTBB would contract with farmer to provide specified amount of certain crop to membership at a fixed cost to be calculated by AAWG or other entity (such as a LTBB Department of Agriculture). This would make comprising an operational budget for farm operation more realistic as part of LTBB Farm Plan. Would not be able to pay farmer as a governmental employee, perhaps as contractual. After contract obligations to LTBB fulfilled, additional crop space could be as profit for farmer. Current thought is to base crop production for 200 families.
8. New Action Items – for report to AAWG at next scheduled meeting.
- a. Potential Funding Opportunities
 - i. DC – research USDA Loan Program.
 - ii. GSA – KG to investigate LTBB involvement.
 - iii. JK – working with Planning Director Bryan Gillett and General Counsel Jim Bransky researching the Land Tenure Foundation and traditional lending institutions, also with Grants Writer Julie Kauppila.
 - iv. JK, RG, DC and AP - Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP) Updates – Relationship Building for Better Partnerships. AAWG will get clarification on associated grants at upcoming FRTEP meeting scheduled for January 31, 2013.

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- b. Crop Information - MK will try to get planting plan from Berg Farms outlining amount of needed acreage per crop and types, centering on the Three Sisters.
 - c. Report to Tribal Council – AP and DC to generate a memo outlining groups recommendations and initiatives for February 3, 2013 Tribal Council meeting.
 - d. MSU Apprenticeship Program – RG to investigate.
 - e. Building Codes – JK and KG to organize discussions with LTBB Executive and Planning, no action taken to date.
 - f. Youth Group – RG and MK to contact Kristy Dayson to talk about above topics, no action taken to date.
 - g. NRD Greenhouse – AP to calculate number of raised beds and volume of soil for NRD greenhouse. RG to look up old numbers for raised beds provided to LTBB membership through the Home Grown program. Ellie Payton to research cost of soil and availability.
 - h. RG to research cost for cedar boards for raised beds in NRD Greenhouse.
9. Next Meeting – TBD after January 31, 2013 FRTEP Meeting, to be held in LTBB NRD Conference Room.
10. Adjournment